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Presidential Address delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association, Edinburgh, August 6, 1888. T. S. CLOUSTON. *Journal of Mental Science*, October, 1888.

The major part of this address was devoted to Secondary Dementia. General mental death is so characteristically the "goal of all insanities," that "mental disease may be defined as 'a tendency to dementia'"; and so common is it, that two-thirds of the asylum population of Great Britain are more or less demented, and two-fifths of the new cases become so. Its most typical secondary form is that which follows the insanities of adolescence. As idiocy is a failure of the brain in its period of growth, so the dementia consequent on these insanities is a failure of the highest brain tissue at the last stage of its development. The disease is not to be explained by the degenerative action of previous acute mental disease, nor by circulatory changes. It is strictly the result of bad heredity; there is a "tendency to dementia from the beginning." To know what this goal of insanities really is, and to prevent their reaching it, is the problem of psychiatry.

The address was eminently successful in calling out discussion (*vide* the report of the proceedings in the same number of the *Journal of Mental Science*). It was discussed by Drs. Tuke, Savage, Wiglesworth, Ireland, and others, almost every speaker taking issue with Dr. Clouston on one point or more.

IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Memory and its Doctors. Dr. E. C. PICK. London, 1888.—*Memory. What it is and how to improve it.* DAVID KAY. London, 1888. "*Loisette*" exposed, together with *Loisette's Complete System of Physiological Memory.* G. S. FELLOWS. New York, 1888.—*Memory Systems, Old and New.* A. E. MIDDLETON. With a bibliography and other matter, by G. S. FELLOWS. New York, 1888.

The appearance of these volumes testifies more than to anything else to the great popular interest in psychological matters, especially when any practical advantages are to result; for the idea has not yet been entirely abandoned that some royal road to knowledge is still to be found, some mysterious method of which a favored mortal possesses the key still to be revealed. While psychology is supposed to hold some definite position regarding such themes, hardly any confidence is placed upon these opinions in a matter of practical application. Thus the professional memory-teacher gains success from a public that ought to know better.

Dr. Pick's little volume presents quite modest claims. He bases his system upon natural acquisition by real labor, not hampering the pupil by associations artificially imposed, but simply advocating the good effects of method and an attention to one's associations. Especially do the sound portions of his treatise become prominent when we contrast them with the shallow attempts of his predecessors, of whom he gives a concise and convenient account. There we read of associations of dates with the rooms of a house, with harsh sound combinations and the places in a magic square. Even a memory pill and a memory diet was advocated. Prominent examples of mnemonic feats are also entertainingly given. This primer can be recommended as a pleasant introduction to the topic,

and is especially interesting by the success of Dr. Pick's teaching, and the further fact that it is from him that Loisetie has borrowed so largely without acknowledgment.

Mr. Kay's more comprehensive work will also find a large public. He approaches the problem from a broad psychological point of view, with no haste to reach astounding practical results, and a sound interest in the educational value of psychological principles. He begins with the physiological concomitants of memory, devoting a chapter to the relation of body and mind, and others to the description of the senses and their functions, the nature of mental images, the rôle of the unconscious, and the like. The dependence of a sound memory upon close attention furthered by a living interest, upon active repetition, upon intimate association with centres of interest, are all well described, with a wealth of references to general psychological literature. It is a pity that his physiology is at times not strictly accurate, and still more so that he seems to be unacquainted with the recent German contributions to the topic.

The last two volumes are of greater popular than scientific interest. They are called out by the ridiculous pretensions and peculiar methods of "Loisetie." The pledge to secrecy which he imposes is here disregarded and the entire lesson papers printed in full. This may have the good effect of showing the folly of trusting one's mental culture to the guidance of so artificial a system. The exposure led to the withdrawal of the book from the market by legal procedure, and to the publication of the last work on the list, in which the account of the proceedings is given. Mr. Middleton's account of memory systems is convenient but superficial. Great credit is due Mr. Fellows for his useful bibliography of the subject.

J. J.

Memory. Its Logical Relations and Cultivation. F. W. ELDRIDGE-GREEN. London, 1888.

In opposition to most physiologists, the author endeavors to prove that memory is "a definite faculty," having "its seat in the basal ganglion of the brain." Rejecting phrenology, the author nevertheless comes dangerously near the position of the phrenologists, by dividing the mind into a great number of faculties. The "faculty" of memory he divides into "sensory memory" and "motor memory," and locates the former in the optic thalami, the latter in the corpora striata. Rules are given for the cultivation of both forms of memory. Those relating to the motor memory have to do with the learning of co-ordinated muscular movements.

Il fenomeno della ricordanza illusoria. FRANCESCO BONATELLI. Rendiconti della Reale Accademia dei Lincei. Vol. IV, fasc. 4, February 19, 1888.

As an example of an illusion of memory, the author relates a dream which he seems to have had more than once. He dreamed of occupying a certain set of apartments, and each time remembered having lived in them years before; they were, however, on waking reflection, entirely different from any he had lived in. That this was not a case of recollection from dream to dream he believes, because with this exception his dreams have no similarity one with another, and because, in the waking state also, one is sometimes